

Application No. 09/854,718

RD-28013-2

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20, 22 to 31 and 46 to 59 are pending.

Claims 1 to 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Nielsen.

A difference between the invention and Nielsen is that the invention creates a combinatorial library of "test results" from a variety of tests. The invention provides a substrate of material and then applies a variety of test conditions to create a substrate with a spatially defined array that reflects the test results. Nielsen synthesizes a variety of products that are then tested to identify the products or their properties.

The claims have been amended to clarify the difference. The amendments are based on the specification paragraphs [0024], [0031] to [0034] and [0038] to [0040] and the Working Examples and elsewhere.

Claim 1 recites a system comprising "a testing device," a combinatorial array comprising "test result samples" and a radiation source and detector. Nielsen does not teach or suggest "a testing device," a combinatorial array comprising "test result samples" and a radiation source and detector. Claims 2 to 18 depend from claim 1. The rejection of claims 1 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Nielsen should be withdrawn.

Claim 19 claims a method comprising "applying tests onto [a] coated substrate to form an array of combinatorial test result regions." Nielsen does not teach or suggest "applying tests onto [a] coated substrate to form an array of combinatorial test result regions." Claims 20 and 22 to 32 depend from claim 19. The rejection of claims 1 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Nielsen should be withdrawn.

Nielsen does not teach or suggest "applying varying testing conditions across a substrate to form a pattern of test results" (new claims 46 to 59).

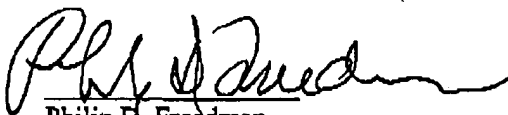
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 20, 22 to 31 and 46 to 59 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

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Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, she is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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